

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel March 2016 meeting

Breakout Group A: Discussion of issues regarding Pelagic Longline (PLL)/Incidental BFT fishery

Topics and trigger questions for feedback and discussion:

(15 min) Individual Bluefin Quotas (IBQ) and IBQ System Use - What is working well/not well?

- Are permit holders finding each other to lease quota?
- Have you had technical problems with any aspects of the IBQ online system?
- Ideas for future development of IBQ system functions?

(15 min) Electronic Monitoring - What is working well/not well?

- Technical issues?
- Best practices for equipment handling, system checks, etc.?

(10 min) Communications - How should outreach be prioritized? (HMS website, listservs, letters)

(30 min) What should NMFS consider for the 3-year review of the IBQ Catch Share Program?

- Considerations for the data to be included?
- Considerations for timing?
- Considerations for collecting AP/public input?
- Considerations for potential changes that could be made during 3-year review?
 - Revisit IBQ allocations (amounts/scheme in general)
 - Permanent sale of IBQ share
 - Ownership/consolidation limits
 - Cost recovery
 - GRAs - Revisions to times or areas? Revisions to performance metrics?
- Ideas we've heard for PLL management changes - which of the following should NMFS consider as regulatory changes? Are there others?
 - Allow for quota carryover to address IBQ exceedances ("disaster sets")
 - *How to allocate among fleet? Criteria? First come/first served?*
 - *How to maintain incentives to reduce BFT interactions?*
 - Pursue 2016 time/area closure Exempted Fishing Permit request
 - Pursue cooperative research in Slope Sea
 - Pelagic / demersal 5% catch composition regulation
 - BFT accounting when trip straddles a year; after NED allocation filled
 - Remove upgrade restrictions on Swordfish Directed Permits

(20 min) Issues identified by PLL fishery participants - what are your thoughts?

- Discrepancy between ICCAT and domestic accounting for BFT dead discards
- Revenue losses due to fishing in new location(s) to avoid Cape Hatteras GRA
- Pelagic Observer Program (POP) concerns
- Concerns regarding potential end-of-year targeting of BFT
- Potential future access to/reallocation of unused Purse Seine quota

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Breakout Group B: Discussion of issues regarding Angling, Charter/Headboat, General, Harpoon, and Purse Seine/Directed BFT fisheries

Topics and trigger questions for feedback and discussion:

(40 min) Retention Limits/Seasons/Sub-quotas/Transfers:

Angling and Charter/Headboat (when fishing recreationally):

- What are appropriate 2016 daily recreational retention limits (Angling and Charter/Headboat)?
- What are you hearing about trophy fishery/division of Trophy South sub-quota into South and Gulf of Mexico sub-quotas?

General, Harpoon, and Charter/Headboat (when fishing commercially):

- What are appropriate 2016 General category retention limits?
- How is the December to January-March transfer working?
- What are your thoughts/suggestions about General category season management?
- What is the appropriate 2016 Harpoon category large medium retention limit?

Purse Seine:

- What is the appropriate date for the 2016 purse seine fishery start?
- Pursue Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) again in 2016?
- What are potential implications of continued unused Purse Seine quota?

(20 min) Automated Catch Reporting (Landings and Discards) - What is working well/not well?

- Are you using the internet or phone to report?
- Have you had any technical issues?
- What are you hearing from others about awareness of the requirement and compliance?

(30 min) Related Swordfish Handgear Fishery Considerations:

- Should NMFS modify the Swordfish General Commercial permit retention limits (multi-day limits/trips; regional retention limits including Florida Swordfish Management Area)?
- Would adding a Vessel Monitoring System requirement aid with an increased retention limit on multi-day trips?
- Should NMFS consider relieving vessel upgrade restrictions for Swordfish Handgear permitted vessels?